

## Souvlakis the order of the day for The Final Event 2003/04

**A**s you will see further on in the Newsletter the Gods feature heavily in this addition. Why is he going on about the Gods I hear you ask?

Well it was down to them that for the second year running we have had very good weather for the clubs' BBQ held again at the cricket ground in Colwall on 25<sup>th</sup> June and brings to a close this years events.

With about 40 people attending it made for a good evening. It gave us



a last chance to meet before embarking on holidays to our favourite country.

Also it provided a refresher on the types of delicacies available to us.

Souvlaki was the order of the day and there certainly was plenty to go round. We even had a vegetarian option. Our thanks must go again to Total who provided us with the dairy side of the BBQ with yoghurt,

tzatziki and feta cheese.

Thanks also to Jill for her strawberry desert.

For those of us who like the odd tipple there was plenty of Mythos beer available and Greek wine thanks to Nick.

We also had some of Nicks' language course from Hereford attend and it was great to see

them. Thanks for making the effort.

For those remotely interested in football by chance Greece played France for a place in the semi-finals in the European cup. Against all odds Greece actually won 1-0. For those hardened football followers this was available for viewing courtesy of the Colwall-Cricket Club.

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## Annual General Meeting

**O**ur first Annual General Meeting was also held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May what a busy night it turned out to be. After a short interlude from John Harts' talk where we sampled another excellent Greek wine and some home made Greek cookies.

All members had previously been given the agenda so without further ado it was down to business.

We were handed a statement of accounts from

treasurer Les Roberts which lead neatly into minute two raising the annual subscription from it's current rate of £5 to £7 for the next year commencing in September. This was agreed by a majority of those attending. We briefly discussed the Club constitution of which all members should now be in possession. There was a lot of debate on whether or not to go ahead with a Web site for the Club. It was agreed to trial for a year. We briefly touched on the newsletter. If you

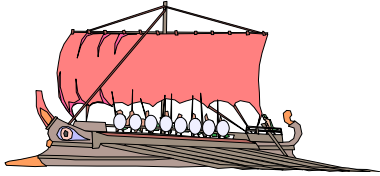
have any articles, stories that you wish to add, my e-mail address and telephone number is located on the back page. I would greatly appreciate it. Nick then went through the Forecast of Events for next year.

As there were no other candidates to be nominated for the positions available as Club officers, Pat, Les and Nick have been re-elected for another term. Congratulations to them for getting us this far with the Kefi Club.

# Former Master Mind on 5<sup>th</sup> Century Athens

The meeting held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May had as the main event a talk on Athens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. by John Hart.

For over an hour John gave us a very in depth talk about what was going on in that period (even then you were left feeling that we had only just scratched the surface). But you would of expected that I suppose from a man who had appeared on Mastermind in the 70's.



I particularly liked how John had pointed out instances of their democratic way of life. Who could vote and why.

The size of their courts and drawing parallels with some of our present day politicians and the mistakes made and lessons learnt or we would like to think so.

During that time there was much fighting and the strength of the Athenians was in their ships, which were fitted out and paid for by the very rich. John gave us the idea of Richard Branson being Captain of a nuclear submarine if that was the case today. *Now there's a thought.*

We were also given a very good example of how tactical voting was used to good effect even in those days when banishment from Athens was part of daily life.

There was a little time left at the end of the presentation for questions but this proved not long enough because of the busy schedule for that evening.

Our thanks go to John who incidentally has offered to come back for another visit. Great news for those members who were unable to attend this talk.

## Forecast of Events 2004/05

Fri 6 Aug. 2004	at 6.00pm Walk at the Hills/ Greek meal at the Trumpet Inn ( Contact: Nick Kontarines)
Fri 24 Sept 2004	Welcome back/ Quiz Night
Fri 12 Nov 2004	Greece in the 50s (Simon Hornyold)
Fri 19 Dec. 2004	Christmas Dinner
Fri 28 Jan 2005	Greek Yoghurt ( to be confirmed)
Fri 25 Feb 2005	Greek Cooking Competition
Fri 18 March 2005	An Ancient Greek Play
Fri 29 April 2005	Wine Tasting
Fri 20 May 2005	Suggestions, please???????
Fri 24 June 2005	Greek BBQ (Hasapotaverna)

## Anglo-Hellenic Club in Worcester

As those of you who attended the meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May will know we had guests from the Anglo-Hellenic Club. David Leggott, chairman-elect of the club spoke for a few minutes on the similarities of the 2 clubs. Both share the same interests, have monthly meetings, produce

a forecast of events, newsletters and they also have a web-site. We were invited to their Summer Barbeque on 24<sup>th</sup> July at Bob and Liz's home. Address and directions available from committee members if you haven't been e-mailed them.

# Ancient Greek Mythology



The reading of Homer

**M**ythology was an integral part of life in ancient times. The myths of ancient Greece are the most familiar to us, for they are deeply entrenched in the consciousness of Western civilisation. They are accounts of the lives of the deities whom the Greeks worshipped and of the heroes they idolised. The myths are all things to all people – a ripping good yarn, expressions of deep psychological insights, words of spine-tingling poetic beauty and food for the imagination. They have inspired great literature, art and music – as well as the odd TV show. The myths we know are thought to be a blend of Dorian and Mycenaean mythology. Most accounts derive from works of the poets Hesiod and Homer, produced in about 900 BC. The original myths have been chopped and changed countless times – dramatised, moralised and even adapted for ancient political propaganda, so numerous versions exist.

## THE TWELVE

The main characters of the myths are the 12 deities, who lived on Mt Olympus.

The supreme deity was **Zeus**, who was also god of the heavens. His job was to make laws and keep his unruly family in order by brandishing his thunderbolt. He was also the possessor of an astonishing libido and vented his lust on just about everyone he came across, including his own mother. Mythology is littered with his offspring.

Zeus was married to his sister **Hera**, the protector of women and the family. Hera was able to renew her virginity each year by bathing in a spring. She was the mother of Ares, Hebe and Hephaestus. **Ares**, god of war, was the embodiment of everything warlike. Strong and brave, he was definitely someone to have on your side in a fight – but he was also hot tempered and violent, liking nothing better than a good massacre.

Athenians, who fought only for such noble ideals as liberty, thought that Ares must be a Thracian – whom they regarded as bloodthirsty barbarians.

**Hephaestus** was worshipped for his matchless skills as a craftsman. When Zeus decided to punish man,

he asked Hephaestus to make a woman. So Hephaestus created Pandora from clay and water, and as everyone knows, she had a box, from which sprang all the evils afflicting humankind.

The next time you have a bowl of corn flakes, give thanks to **Demeter**, the goddess of earth and fertility. The English word 'cereal', for products of corn or edible grain, derives from the goddess' Roman name, Ceres. The Greek word for such products is demetriaka.

The goddess of love was the beautiful **Aphrodite**. Her tour de force was her magic girdle, which made everyone fall in love with the wearer. The girdle meant she was constantly pursued by both gods and goddesses – the gods because they wanted to make love to her, the goddesses because they wanted to borrow the girdle. Zeus became so fed up with her promiscuity that he married her off to Hephaestus, the ugliest god.

**Athena**, the powerful goddess of wisdom and the guardian of Athens, is said to have been born (complete with helmet, armour and spear) from Zeus' head, with Hephaestus acting as midwife. Unlike Ares, she derived no pleasure from fighting, preferring to use her wisdom to settle disputes peacefully. If need be, however, she went valiantly into battle.

**Poseidon**, the brother of Zeus, was the god of the sea and preferred his sumptuous palace in the depths of the Aegean to Mt Olympus. When he was angry (which was often) he would use his trident to create massive waves and floods. His moods could trigger earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. He was always on the lookout for some real estate on dry land and challenged Dionysos for Naxos, Hera for Argos and Athena for Athens.



**Apollo**, god of light, was the son of Zeus by the nymph Leto. He was the sort of person everybody wanted around. The ancient Greeks associated sunshine with spiritual and intellectual illumination. Apollo was worshipped as the god of music and song, which the ancients believed were heard only where there was light and security.

Apollo's twin sister, **Artemis**, seems to have a been a bit confused by her portfolio. She was worshipped as the goddess of childbirth, yet she asked Zeus to grant her eternal virginity; she was also the protector of suckling animals, but loved hunting.

**Hermes**, messenger of the gods, was another son of Zeus – this time by Maia, daughter of Atlas. He was a colourful character who smooth-talked his way into the top ranks of the Greek pantheon. Convicted of rustling Apollo's cattle while still in his cradle, he emerged from the case as the guardian of all divine property. Zeus then made Hermes his messenger, and fitted him out with a pair of winged golden sandals to speed him on his way. His job included responsibility for commerce, treaties and the safety of travellers. He remained the patron of thieves.

Hermes completes the first XI – the gods whose position in the pantheon is agreed by everyone. The final berth is normally reserved for **Hestia**, goddess of the hearth. She was as pure as the driven snow, a symbol of security, happiness and hospitality. She spurned disputes and wars, and swore to be a virgin forever.

She was a bit too virtuous for some, who relegated her to the ranks of a lesser gods and promoted the fun-loving **Dionysos**, god of wine, in her place. Dionysos was the son of Zeus by another of the supreme deity's dalliances. He had the job of touring the world with an entourage of fellow revellers spreading the word about the vine and wine.

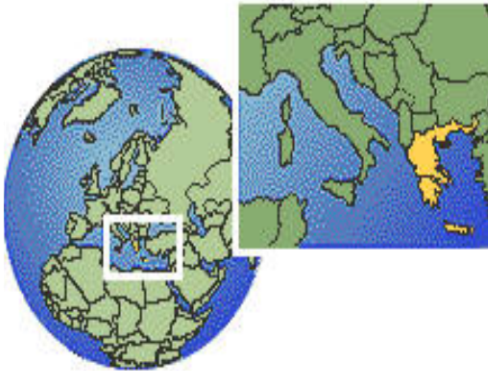
## LESSER

After his brothers Zeus and Poseidon had taken the heavens and the seas, **Hades** was left with the underworld (the earth was common ground).

This vast and mysterious region was thought by the Greeks to be as far beneath the earth as the sky was above it. The underworld was divided into three regions: the Elysian Fields for the virtuous, Tartarus for sinners and the Asphodel Meadows for those who fitted neither category. Hades was also the god of wealth, in the form of the precious stones and metals found deep in the earth.

**Pan**, The son of Hermes, was the god of the shepherds. Born with horns, beard, tail and goat legs, his ugliness so amused the other gods that eventually he fled to Arcadia where he danced, played his famous pipes and watched over the pastures, shepherds and herds.

Other gods included **Asclepius**, the god of healing; **Eros**, the god of love; **Hypnos**, the god of sleep; and **Selene**, goddess of the moon.



### Mandarin Fondant-(Mandarinata)

Preparation Time 1hr— Yields 55-60 balls

#### INGREDIENTS

1lb Ground Walnuts, 1/2 lb Icing Sugar, Rind of four Mandarins ground, 2 Tablespoons Brandy, 1-2 Tablespoons of Orange Marmalade. Extra Brandy and Sugar for dusting

1. Mx together walnuts, icing sugar and ground mandarin.
2. Add brandy
3. Mx lightly by hand adding as much orange marmalade as necessary to produce an easy to handle mixture.
4. Dip palms into a little brandy and shape the mixture into chestnut size balls.
5. Roll them in sugar and place into small candy cups.



Our own version of the ancient Gods  
By Andrew M<sup>c</sup> Kenzie

## Greek Language Courses 2004/05

I know most of us are thinking of summer holidays or a well earned rest, but can I take this opportunity to remind our readers to register as soon as possible for next years Greek language courses at all levels.

Next year a morning class for beginners has been introduced. This course will run on Thursdays.

## Greece European Football Champions 2004

It just had to get a mention - the spectacular win by Greece in Footballs European Cup. It was a good start for me watching the preliminary matches in Skiathos. All the fancied teams were being knocked out one by one, Italy, Spain, England and France (the holders of the cup) all found themselves out of it. France lost to Greece in the quarter-finals. But this one team, whose fans are fanatical about football, found themselves in the semi-finals. They were up against the team picked by many pundits to win the competition namely the Czech Republic. It took the Silver goal but yes, Greece had made it to the final against the home team Portugal who Greece had previously beat in the earlier rounds of the competi-

tion. What a game it turned out to be. Portugal had most of the chances but with the first corner for Greece in the second half came the only goal scored by Angelos Charisteas and made the 100/1 outsiders at the beginning of the competition **Champions of Europe.**

#### Well Done.

Those of you who have the Worcester Evening News will no doubt have read the interview given by our own Nick Kontarines.

What a brilliant time for the Greek Nation we all look to the Olympic Games and wish them every success in hosting this event.

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